

Rooftop Fines Will Soon Cost Up to \$500

By Kelley Rivoire
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Those in the hacking community may want to start lining their pockets — starting Jan. 2006, first-time fines for being found on the rooftops of MIT buildings will increase from

an automatic \$50 to a maximum of \$500, with a possibility of an appeal to the Committee on Discipline.

The new policy, decided upon in June, follows years of discussion by some members of the administration about how to treat hacks, which both

bring the Institute fame and present growing safety concerns, leading to what Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75 calls "kind of a contradiction."

The change is not intended to curtail the ingenious hacks that make MIT famous, but rather to implement

a "case-specific" policy that focuses on safety, said Robert M. Randolph, senior associate dean for students. "I think MIT has to be very clear about how we understand the value and dangers of hacks," he said. "MIT is not out to destroy hacking."

Some students, however, said the higher fines would only increase the danger factor by encouraging them to run if discovered on a roof.

Under the new policy, Randolph said he believes the average fine will be between \$100 and \$200 dollars, but "we ought to have conversations about it." The automatic \$50 fine has been the policy throughout his 26 years at MIT, he said. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator based on the Consumer Price Index, what cost \$50 at that time would now cost around \$135.

While Randolph and Clay have been among a small set discussing the policy for years, the announcement of the change came as a surprise to others, including the COD Chair Margery Resnick. "No one has informed me about anything," she said. "Generally, the COD would know about that kind of change."

The failure to notify Resnick was "an oversight," Randolph said. "We weren't trying to slip anything by."

The new policy is not yet available in print or online; the MIT Po-

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RICARDO RAMIREZ

Spurred by safety concerns, fines for students caught on MIT building rooftops will change beginning in Jan. 2006 from \$50 to up to \$500.

Housing Prices Increase by 6 Percent for '05-'06

By Rosa Cao

MIT undergraduate and graduate students are paying about 6 percent more on average for on-campus housing this year than last. Increases for particular rooms and buildings vary significantly, from 3 percent for some rooms in Eastgate, a graduate dormitory for married students, to 12 percent in East Campus doubles, according to numbers provided by the Housing Office.

The two primary reasons for the increase are changes in MIT's operating budget forcing the housing system to become self-sufficient and recent rises in natural gas and energy prices, said Peter D. Cummings, assistant director for Business Services.

By employing three years of higher than normal rent raises, the housing system gradually shifted to meet all costs of running and maintain-

ing the system through rent income, Cummings said. He said utilities expenditures for this academic year will be about \$8 million, up from \$7 million last year.

Other costs include debt servicing for large expenditures, (budgeted between \$3 and \$5 million per year) such as the recent upgrade of the Eastgate heating system, security, facilities, custodial and administrative staffing, and lost income from

unfilled vacancies.

Varied concern over rising costs

An undergraduate living in a double in Baker was charged \$2280 per semester for the '03-'04 academic year; paid 6 percent more, \$2417, in '04-'05; and will pay an additional 7 percent, or \$2586 per semester, this year.

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Goodbye to Telemarketing! Few Pay Local Calling Fee

By John A. Hawkinson
STAFF REPORTER

Students can no longer place or receive local calls as part of the basic phone service provided with every MIT dormitory room.

Last Tuesday, Information Services and Technology moved phone service in undergraduate dormitories to a new rate plan, under which students must pay \$17 to be able to receive or place local calls, with the free basic service restricted to calls between MIT phones. Phone service in graduate dormitories was switched over last month, on Aug. 22.

As of yesterday, 185 undergraduate students and 568 graduate students had signed up for the full service plan, said Jara Tarasenko of IS&T. That represents 15 percent of the 4900 dormitory telephones, and will generate about \$103,000 in revenue for IS&T over the nine months of the year that most students live in dormitories, plus up to \$40,000 from

summer residents.

IS&T estimates the cost of telephony at MIT at \$6.6 million, and apportions \$2.4 million of that for analog phone service (as opposed to multi-line digital phones), or \$200,000 per month, according to Allison F. Dolan, IS&T's Director of Telephony.

For the current fiscal year, IS&T will charge MIT \$20 per phone per month, of which Housing will pay \$3 for dormitory phones. If the number of students who sign up for full phone service next year does not increase significantly, and other factors remain the same, next year's price could be as high as \$23, or \$20 for students if Housing continues its present \$3 contribution. The price of phone service is calculated by dividing the estimated cost of the entire service by the expected number of users.

Although full service does not

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YALU WU

C. Michael Armstrong, former chairman of Comcast, speaks to students in 32-083 about the mix of technical and managerial skills that industries look for in MIT graduates. Armstrong was the keynote speaker at a kickoff event for the new Sloan minor held last night.

Katrina Area Students Arrive

By Angeline Wang

As students from colleges affected by Hurricane Katrina began class at MIT yesterday, efforts urging the MIT community to participate in aid efforts continued with a rally held outside the Student Center.

MIT accepted 18 students affected by Katrina, with 11 choosing to attend, said Julie B. Norman, associate dean of Academic Resources and Programming. The students began arriving at MIT last week, with the last coming to campus tomorrow, Norman said.

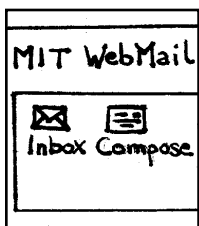
Tuition and MIT housing for the visiting students have been waived, but students will have to pay for food, health insurance, and books, said Daniel Barkowitz, director of financial aid. "Most of the students have already paid tuition to their home institutions," he said. "We're saying that they don't have to pay us as well."

Students submitted a modified application form with self-reported information, including standardized test scores, courses, and grades, as they did not have access to their transcripts, Norman said.

The visiting students, three males and eight females, come from Tulane University, the University of New Orleans, Loyola University, and Xavier University. Six are being housed in dormitories, three in fraternities or sororities, and two off-campus — one with a sister, the other in an apartment, Norman said. While there was no formal orientation program, students were provided with a packet of informational materials, spoken to

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Do you want to redesign *The Tech's* Web site? See page 10 for more information about this paid position.



Comics

OPINION

Aditya Kohli compares the Clearinghouse system to Big Brother.

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WORLD & NATION

Afghan Commission Disqualifies 28 Candidates

By Carlotta Gall

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MAIMANA, AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan's Elections Complaints Commission on Monday disqualified 28 candidates for violations of the country's elections law, 21 of them for retaining links with armed militias, six days before the country's parliamentary elections. Those disqualified included several notorious former militia commanders from various provinces, but not some of the most powerful commanders, who remain in the race.

The announcement came after numerous complaints that these commanders and militia leaders were going to dominate Sunday's elections for parliament and provincial councils. A provision of the country's election law bars military leaders from taking part in the election, and the government has tried to use the provision to press militia leaders to disarm and to try to keep them out of public office. A joint Afghan and international disarmament commission drew up the list of candidates found to have links with armed groups.

Eleven commanders had been disqualified in July, but people monitoring the election process said that action had been insufficient. Seven candidates were disqualified Monday for not resigning from their government positions, among them several women.

Oracle Bids \$5.85 Billion for Rival Siebel Systems

By Laurie J. Flynn

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO

Oracle Corp., the giant database-software maker, announced Monday that it would pay \$5.85 billion to acquire Siebel Systems, its largest competitor in the market for sales automation programs.

The deal will bolster Oracle's effort to topple its German rival SAP as the leading seller of business applications software for large corporations.

The acquisition comes less than a year after Oracle managed to achieve a hostile takeover of PeopleSoft Corp. for \$10.3 billion after a contentious battle that had dragged on for nearly 18 months.

Oracle says its acquisition of Siebel will make it the largest seller of sales automation software — a category also known as customer relationship management software. SAP remains a far bigger supplier of business applications overall, but the Siebel acquisition, said Lawrence J. Ellison, Oracle's chief executive, "moves us closer to our goal of being No. 1 in applications globally."

Utility Workers Blamed for Brief L.A. Blackout

By Randal C. Archibold

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LOS ANGELES

Large areas of Los Angeles lost power on Monday after utility workers doing maintenance work accidentally cut a line, officials said.

The blackout, which occurred just after 12:30 p.m. Pacific time and lasted less than an hour in most areas, came a day after Sept. 11 and amid reports of al-Qaida threats against the city, setting off jitters citywide. Television stations broadcast dramatic images of towering flames at refineries.

But the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which provides electricity to a 400-square-mile area, blamed workers at a power station in the San Fernando Valley, and the fiery images turned out to be the routine burn-off of gas at the refineries as a precaution after some lost power.

Officials said there was no evidence of sabotage, though the Police Department went on high alert for a few hours as a precaution.

Carol Tucker, a spokeswoman for the utility, said it estimated half of the 1.5 million homes and businesses its serves were affected.

Roberts Pledges to Approach Cases With "An Open Mind"

By Todd S. Purdum and Robin Toner

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

In an opening day of confirmation hearings in which senators drew sharp and partisan distinctions over his — and their — views on issues like abortion, civil rights, and the role of the courts, Judge John G. Roberts Jr. promised on Monday that if confirmed as the 17th chief justice of the United States he would "confront every case with an open mind."

"I will be open to the considered views of my colleagues on the bench," Roberts told the Senate Judiciary Committee and a packed hearing room on Capitol Hill. "And I will decide every case based on the record, according to the rule of law, without fear or favor, to the best of my ability. And I will remember that it's my job to call balls and strikes, and not to pitch or bat."

The first afternoon of at least four days of projected hearings amounted to a kind of scripted political ritual, serial speeches by senators who praised Roberts or raised concerns about him, followed by

his brief remarks, in which he responded just in the most general terms.

The session nevertheless starkly crystallized the debate over his nomination to fill the first Supreme Court vacancy in 11 years, and the first for chief justice in nearly 20, and how it is likely to play out in questions and answers beginning on Tuesday morning.

Again and again in the old Senate Caucus Room, the scene of contentious hearings since the days of Teapot Dome, Democrats on the panel leveled their gaze at Roberts at the witness table not 20 feet away.

They said they expected him to answer detailed questions about his writings as a young lawyer in the Reagan administration 20 years ago, questioned whether he subscribed to an expansive view of a Constitution able to embrace evolving notions of civil rights and social progress, and invoked the devastation of Hurricane Katrina to underscore their arguments about the gap between the American ideal and reality.

For their part, Republicans gen-

erally hailed Roberts as the kind of jurist who would exercise judicial restraint and leave law-making to Congress, though some said they wanted to explore his views about a series of recent Supreme Court rulings that curtailed congressional power. Many said he should not have to answer detailed questions about past, present, or future cases.

No one in either party promised to oppose or support Roberts outright, though some came close, including Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr., D-Del., who said that on the basis of Roberts' written record alone, "I would have to vote no."

Biden, who is considering a presidential bid, added, "This is your chance, judge, to explain what you meant by what you have said and what you have written."

To potential friends and foes alike, Roberts gave the same respectful, silent, sympathetic, pursed-lip look. When he spoke at last, he offered homey testimonials to his deep respect for the rule of law, declaring: "I have no platform. Judges are not politicians who can promise to do certain things in exchange for votes."

After Removal of Katrina Role, FEMA Leader Brown Resigns

By Richard W. Stevenson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Three days after being stripped of his duties overseeing the post-hurricane relief effort, Michael D. Brown resigned Monday as director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, saying that he wanted to avoid distracting the agency at a time when it faces a massive challenge.

The White House quickly named R. David Paulison to succeed Brown on an acting basis. Paulison, a former firefighter, has been director of the agency's preparedness division for the past two years.

In contrast to Brown, who had relatively little experience dealing with disasters and emergency response before joining FEMA, Paulison has spent his career in the field, having been chief of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department before joining the federal

government in 2001 as administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration.

In an interview on Monday night, Brown said that he felt that his role had become an obstacle to the agency's work.

"The press was too focused on what did we do, what didn't we do, the whole blame game," he said. "I wanted to take that factor out of the equation, so that the people at FEMA, who are some of the most hardworking, dedicated civil servants I have ever met, could just go do their job."

Brown, 50, said he felt no pressure to resign. He said he made his decision Sunday with his family after a long conversation Saturday night with Andrew H. Card Jr., the White House chief of staff.

"Andy was very, very supportive of me," Brown said.

He said he planned to "take some time to just rejuvenate the old battery"

before considering his options.

Brown's departure was hardly surprising, given the decision, announced Friday, to remove him from management of the federal response to Hurricane Katrina.

Brown had become a political liability to the White House, even in his constrained new role. Democrats in Congress had been questioning how the administration could retain him in such an important job as director of FEMA after his performance in responding to the hurricane.

A poll taken over the weekend by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, a nonpartisan research organization, found that more than six in 10 respondents judged the federal government's response to be fair or poor. A variety of polls in recent days have found Bush's approval ratings at or near their lows, with his support eroding even among Republicans.

WEATHER

Simmer Down

By Cegeon J. Chan

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Although classes are back in session and some leaves around campus have even already started to change color, mother nature reminds us not to pack away those summer shorts just yet. (It is still technically summer.) The combination of yesterday's strong low-pressure system north of Nova Scotia and a high pressure in the Mid-Atlantic states yielded strong warm air advection into southern New England. The result — yesterday's high temperature of 91°F at Logan Airport was just two degrees shy of the record. With the lack of this forcing today, expect winds shifting to an on-shore breeze causing temperatures to be cooler than yesterday.

Less than a thousand miles south of Boston, Ophelia continues imitating a lost child. Just like many college students, Ophelia has not decided which path to follow (in fact, over the weekend, Ophelia did a "360" just off the coast of the Carolinas) and continues to have an identity crisis (yesterday it was downgraded from a hurricane to a tropical storm, but expected to gain enough strength to be categorized as a hurricane again today.) Although there is still high uncertainty in the storm track, Ophelia is expected to make landfall in North Carolina and then move northeastward, perhaps giving the Boston region some much-needed rain Thursday into Friday. In the meantime, over the next two afternoons, your summer clothes will likely be needing your attention.

Extended Forecast

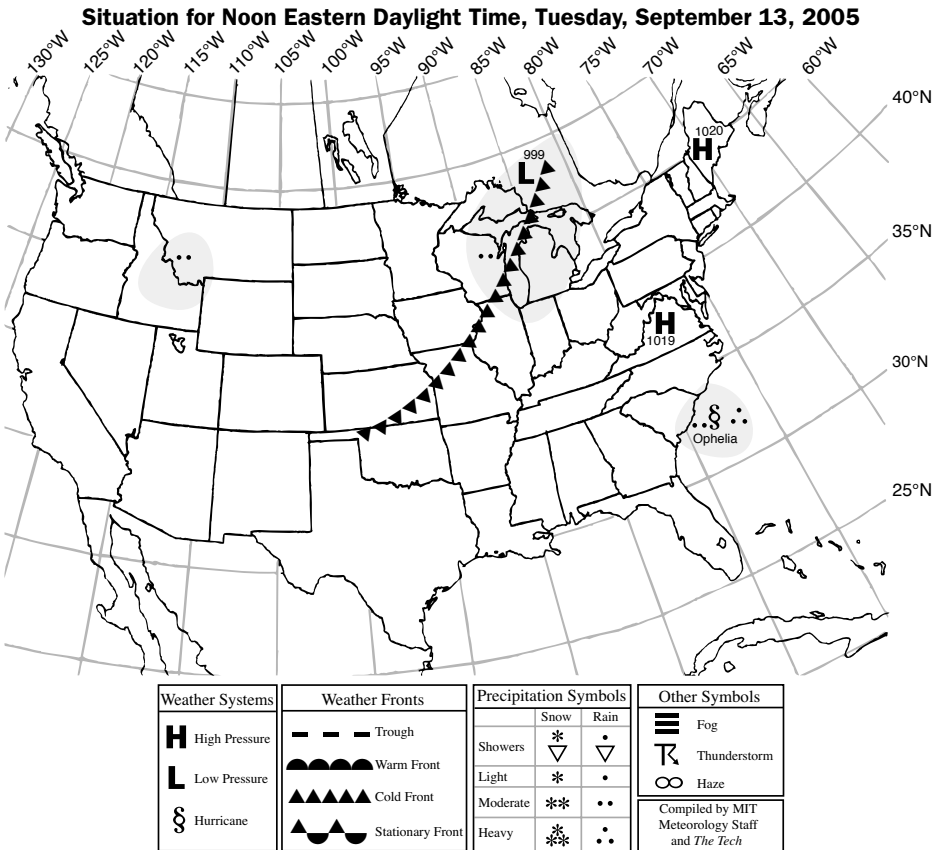
Today: Mostly sunny. Not as warm, but slightly more humid. Highs near 80°F (27°C).

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Patchy fog. Humid with lows in the upper 60s°F (20°C).

Tomorrow: Partly cloudy. Humid again. Highs in the mid 80s°F (30°C).

Tomorrow night: Partly cloudy. Humid in the upper 60s°F (20°C).

Thursday: Cloudy. Chance of rain. Highs in the upper 70s°F (26°C).



Palestinians Celebrate As Last Of Israeli Soldiers Leave Gaza

By Steven Erlanger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEVE DEKALIM, GAZA STRIP

Throughout the abandoned Israeli settlements of Gaza, Monday was a carnival of celebration, political grandstanding and widespread scavenging for a Palestinian population whose occupiers vanished overnight, as the Israeli Army pulled its last soldier out of Gaza at 6:50 a.m.

But hours before the divisional commander, Aviv Kochavi, became the last Israeli soldier to leave, thousands of Palestinians had entered the once-forbidden settlements that, together with military infrastructure, consumed about 30 percent of the densely populated Gaza Strip.

The celebrations were orchestrated in part by the rival factions within Palestinian society — Islamic Jihad, Hamas and Fatah, the mainspring

of the Palestinian Authority. Their flags of black, green and yellow were more numerous than the Palestinian flag, and were prominent on abandoned Israeli military outposts and public buildings.

Hamas, which is running hard for votes in January’s legislative elections, paraded through numerous settlements, with armed and often masked men on loudspeaker trucks. Hamas posters and graffiti proclaimed the victory of resistance. Islamic Jihad, which is not running, did the same, as did armed members of Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a Fatah contingent.

Some who came did so to see the land they had worked before the 1967 war, when Israel took Gaza from Egypt; others honored friends who had died in attacks on the Israeli settlers; still others came to salvage whatever could be ripped

away and sold from the large piles of rubble the Israelis had left behind.

Donkey carts were piled high with bathroom fixtures, pieces of metal, skeins of wiring and long pieces of wood, to feed home ovens. Men, women and children worked with a seriousness of purpose, trying to take home some little personal benefit from the return of lands many feel will somehow, as usual, end up in the hands of the wealthy or well connected.

By the light of burning egg crates, Samir Abu Hattah whacked away at window glass with a metal pole, shouting, “Go to hell, Zionists!” Then he directed a group of young men to start pulling down the electrical wiring, aluminum window frames and doors of an agricultural warehouse here in Neve Dekalim.

Mexico Builds Trade Ties With China

By James C. McKinley Jr.
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MEXICO CITY

President Hu Jintao of China wooed Mexican leaders Monday during a state visit, trying to smooth out the often prickly relationship between the two countries as part of a larger campaign to expand China’s influence in Latin America.

In the afternoon, Hu and President Vicente Fox signed several minor agreements with great fanfare, among them one providing mutual tax limits on companies doing business in both countries and another that will allow Mexico to export grapes to China in return for importing Chinese pears.

The countries also agreed on a framework for negotiating future accords that may eventually allow Chinese companies to mine iron and other minerals in Mexico. In recent years, China has been scouring Latin America for iron and oil to feed its roaring economy.

But underneath these shows of cooperation lies an ugly economic street fight over the U.S. market, analysts say. Chinese companies have battered Mexico’s manufacturers and farmers in recent years, and many here see China threatening to replace Mexico as the main supplier of light manufactured goods.

Last year, China knocked Mexico out of the No. 2 spot on the list of importers to the United States.

And Mexico itself is flooded with Chinese products, both legal and contraband, from chili peppers to blue jeans to electronics. Last year, Mexico imported \$31 in goods from China for every dollar’s worth it sent there, according to trade experts here, and that does not include the thriving market in smuggled Chinese goods.

Pakistani President Says N. Korea Has Equipment for Nuclear Fuel

By David E. Sanger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan said Monday that he believes that A.Q. Khan, the Pakistani nuclear expert who ran the world’s largest proliferation ring, exported “probably a dozen” centrifuges to North Korea to produce nuclear weapons fuel, but that after two years of interrogations of Khan there was still no evidence about whether he also gave North Korea a Chinese-origin design to build a nuclear weapon.

Musharraf’s comments in an interview, which echo statements he made last month to Japanese reporters, came a day before the United States reopens talks with North Korea about its nuclear program in Beijing. The Pakistani leader’s comments about the results of the interrogations of Khan, a national hero

who is under a loose form of house arrest in Islamabad, are significant because they tend to confirm the accusations U.S. intelligence officials made against North Korea in 2002.

At that time, North Korean officials appeared to confirm that they had secretly started up a second nuclear program to build atomic weapons using uranium technology obtained from Khan’s network, as an alternative to a plutonium program that was frozen under a 1994 agreement with the United States. But ever since, North Korea has denied that a second, secret bomb program exists.

A dozen centrifuges would not be enough to produce a significant amount of bomb-grade uranium. But U.S. officials say they would have enabled North Korea to copy the design and build their own.

The Bush administration has

insisted that unless North Korea agrees to give up both programs — and agrees to a broad program of inspections — no comprehensive nuclear deal can be reached. North Korea has suggested it may be willing to give up its older plutonium program, based at a huge nuclear complex located at Yongbyon, but has reiterated its denials that it has hidden centrifuges to make bomb-grade uranium.

In a wide-ranging discussion in New York with three journalists from *The New York Times*, Musharraf also discussed Pakistan’s tentative diplomatic openings toward Israel and its efforts to track down al-Qaida leaders. He said that the opening to Israel could flourish “in case there is forward movement” on negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, but he said, “this is by no means recognition of Israel.”

Two Charged in Philippines Spying Case

By Ronald Smothers
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEWARK, N.J.

An FBI intelligence analyst and a former top Philippines law enforcement official were charged in federal court on Monday with espionage.

The FBI analyst, Leandro Aragoncillo, 46, of Woodbury, N.J., a naturalized U.S. citizen who was born in the Philippines, and Michael Ray Aquino, 39, of Queens, a former deputy director of the Philippines National Police under the regime of former President Joseph Estrada. The two men are accused of passing classified agency information to government officials in Manila in a case that appeared related to the Philippines’ fractious internal politics.

According to affidavits by FBI agents, Aragoncillo passed copies of classified FBI documents about the Philippines to Aquino between February and August of this year, using cell phone text messages and e-mail messages.

Both men were ordered held without bail by U.S. Magistrate Judge Patty Shwartz. Aquino was in the United States on an expired six-month tourist visa that was issued in 2001.

Messages intercepted by investigators were heavily edited in the court affidavit but appeared to deal with FBI information about domestic political turmoil in the Philippines. The ultimate destination of the information, according to the court papers, was three unnamed public officials in the Philippines.

U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie declined to characterize the information that the two men are said to have passed.

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seang@mit.edu

MIT-France Program

E38 7th Floor Conference Room
Thursday 9/29, 5:30 to 7pm
ajulich@mit.edu

MIT-Germany Program

E38 7th Floor Conference Room
Tuesday 9/27, 5 to 7pm
sberka@mit.edu

MIT-India Program

E38 7th Floor Conference Room
Monday 9/26, 5 to 7pm
deeptin@mit.edu

MIT-Italy Program

E38 7th Floor Conference Room
Wednesday 9/28, 5:30 to 7pm
ssferza@mit.edu

MIT-Japan Program

Student Center, West Lounge
Thursday 9/15, 5:30 to 7pm
dreichert@mit.edu

MIT-Mexico Program

Student Center, 20 Chimneys
Thursday 9/22, 5 to 7pm
kirkcald@mit.edu

OPINION

Clearinghouse Worth Missing

Aditya Kohli

Big Brother has silenced my alarm clock. Most students would be happy to never experience its timely abruptness again. I, on the other hand, yearn for it. I have not heard it since I have been on campus — not because I have been waking up early or because I sleep through it, but because hundreds of MIT fraternity brothers have replaced it. My mornings at MIT thus far have been characterized by loud knocks on my door and incessant phone calls from area codes I did not know existed.

The Clearinghouse tracking database has been reinstituted this year after a four-year hiatus. It is used to keep track of how much time a freshman spends with a particular frat. Freshmen sign in or out when entering or leaving fraternities and their status is subsequently entered into a database open to all fraternities. The most apparent use of Clearinghouse is “camping.” For example, fraternity A wants a particular freshman at one of their rush events. They use the Clearinghouse database to find out he is at fraternity B. Brothers from fraternity A travel to fraternity B and ask to speak to the freshman. The freshman has the option of remaining at house A or going with the new brothers from house B. While seemingly practical, this outdated system fosters uncomfortable situations and compounds unwise rush decisions.

I should not be guilted into leaving a fraternity if a group of brothers camps for me. I have precisely ten minutes, as outlined by Clearinghouse rules, to greet campers, which

is not enough time for me to plan out the rest of my day. Once I leave campus with a fraternity I am often gone for six to eight hours. I am barely a freshman; I do not yet have the courage to tell four seniors to leave me alone. I often give into the pressure and depart with the new fraternity. I am not interested in seven steak and lobster dinners or daily paint-balling; I am solely interested in getting to know the brothers and the houses. My experiences are effectively rendered meaningless by impromptu jaunts with fraternities I am not interested in.

I am not interested in seven steak and lobster dinners or daily paint-balling; I am solely interested in getting to know the brothers and the houses.

As soon as I sign out of one house, I receive a phone call from another. One week is not enough time to decide four years of your life. One week fraught with interruptions and distractions is infinitely worse. There is no time during rush to sit down and think about where you want to pledge; there is no time to even decide whether or not you want to pledge. The Clearinghouse system compounds this paucity of time. I often return to my dorm and find a fraternity-associated van waiting for me. The last thing I want to be doing is spending time somewhere I am not comfortable; unfortunate-

ly, I am often pressured into doing just that. The Clearinghouse system is meant to help freshmen experience a myriad of houses; however, it is more important to understand one house than to superficially experience five. Moreover, camping creates unnecessary tension between rushers and brothers. Freshmen are forced to make a quick decision — one that is rarely prudent. This rushed decision can turn a once healthy relationship with a fraternity sour. I spent a night at fraternity X. Little did I know that they must notify all other fraternities of my “wake up” time, so that the camping can start as soon as I wake up. When I woke up at fraternity X the next morning, I found a group of brothers from fraternity Y standing next to my bed — hardly a comfortable situation. Again, while the notion of getting to know many frats buttresses the apparent value of Clearinghouse, the familiarization process should not be forced on freshmen but rather left to personal interest.

The system is obsolete. If a brother wants to contact me he can call me at any time on my cell phone. If he does not have my cell phone number, he does not have it for a reason. There is no need for him to arrive unbeknownst to my dorm room or another fraternity. I should be able to decide where I want to go at what time; there is a reason fraternities print rush schedules. I did not come to college to be stalked. I do not have a whistle on my key chain. I rushed to find my niche at this school; I rushed for purpose. Clearinghouse has made my purpose during rush to avoid sketchy frat guys. Big Brother has arrived in all his glory.

Aditya Kohli is a member of the Class of 2009.

Corrections

A Sept. 6 article about MIT’s placement in college rankings by the magazine “Washington Monthly” incorrectly stated that MIT was fined \$75,000 by the federal government for spending too small a percentage of its funds from the Federal Work-Study Program on community service. MIT had \$75,000 in unused Federal Work-Study Community Service funding that was made available to the government for use by other schools.



Opinion Policy

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Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

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Race, Class, and Katrina

Nakul Vyas

An increasing number of public figures are lambasting the government for its slow response in New Orleans — what one local official, Aaron Broussard, called “one of the worst abandonments of Americans on American soil ever in U.S. history.” These figures are accusing the government of forsaking the predominantly African-American poor population. Black leader, Reverend Al Sharpton said “I feel race was a factor. Why? I remember almost a year ago to the day I was in Florida when a hurricane was coming ... and I saw the White House move ... National Guard was already alerted before the storm ever hit. It seems to me that if we can be alert in Palm Beach, Florida, we could have been alert in New Orleans.” Palm Beach, incidentally, is a mostly white upper-middle class area.

Reverend Sharpton’s observations reflect the long history of American society neglecting the poor generally and blacks specifically. The Bush administration, which represents the wealthy segments of America, has more important priorities than saving the poor. A certain unilateral occupation of an oil rich country comes to mind.

A U.N. report released on Sept. 7 documents the increasing divide between the haves and the have-nots in the U.S. According to the report, compiled by Kevin Watkins,

the former head of research at Oxfam, black infants are twice as likely as white babies to die before their first birthday. The U.S. is the only wealthy nation without universal health care. U.S. infant mortality rates have grown in the last five years, and now match those of third world countries like Malaysia. The report links poverty to war, and describes the U.S. as having “an overdeveloped military strategy and an under-developed strategy for human security.”

Critics have elaborated on the connection between the disaster and money spent in Iraq. Local officials requested \$60 million for the Southeast Louisiana flood control project, but the federal government provided only \$10 million. “The Bush administration has obviously had its attention focused in terms of the budget on Iraq ... and it’s been looking to cut back in the corps of engineers,” said John McQuaid, reporter for the Washington bureau of the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*. In a 2002 investigative series entitled *Washing Away*, McQuaid predicted that a hurricane, like Katrina, would cause grievous damage to the city.

Even if the Bush administration had ignored McQuaid’s warnings, however, they still could have acted decisively after the disaster struck. Instead, White House officials continued their vacations. President Bush remained on his ranch in Crawford, Texas for two days after the hurricane made landfall

and was photographed laughing and playing the guitar. Vice President Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice continued their vacations for three days. In the days after the hurricane hit, Rice took tennis lessons from Monica Seles, saw the Monty Python play “Spamalot” on Broadway, and went hunting for shoes on Fifth Avenue. A person shouted, “How dare you shop for shoes while thousands are dying and homeless!” The person was removed from the store.

The federal government was not the only group to fail the poor and predominately black citizens of New Orleans. The national media chose to portray blacks as looters. On an NBC fund-raising telethon, hip-hop superstar Kanye West departed from his script to condemn the media. “If it’s a black family, it says we’re looting. If it’s a white family, it says they’re looking for food.” Before NBC cut the live broadcast, West added “George Bush doesn’t care about black people.”

Even if some blacks and poor people did engage in looting, I find it laughable to denounce people abandoned with no food and water, who have lived in poverty their entire lives.

In a city where half the households make less than \$28,000 a year, the authorities issued what *New York Daily News* columnist Errol Louis called “an almost cynical evacuation order” to people with no transport and no money for hotels. I’d call it callous if not criminal. Barbara Bush, mother of the president, displayed a similar contempt for the poor in

her comment about the refugees in the Houston Astrodome. “You know, [they] were underprivileged anyway, so this is working very well for them.”

Did race or did class motivate the speed of response? It is hard to untangle because race is a class issue. If you

are black you are more likely to be low-income, and it is always the poor who suffer the most in our society. It is the poor who freeze when a snowstorm hits Boston. It is the poor who are maimed most often in our wars abroad. It is the poor who had no place to go before the hurricane hit, who had no cars to escape the city before the flooding, and who are now stranded on rooftops in New Orleans without food and water. The poor are the ones suffering and dying, as usual.

Nakul Vyas is a member of the Class of 2008.

A U.N. report links poverty to war, describing the U.S. as having “an overdeveloped military strategy and an under-developed strategy for human security.”

Join the Hurricane Katrina Relief Initiative

Ali Wyne

The level of devastation that Hurricane Katrina has inflicted on the southern regions of this country is almost incomprehensible. It is a painful reminder that Mother Nature, even in her infinite bounty, is capable of pitiless destruction, against which neither the bravest of peoples nor the mightiest of powers can defend. More importantly, however, it affirms our obligation to others, as human beings.

Even as millions, if not tens of millions, of Americans are contributing to relief efforts, many are not. Their choice to be uninvolved can likely be ascribed to one or both of the following beliefs: namely, that (i) they do not have friends or loved ones living in the impacted areas, and, as such, do not feel a particular need to assist those who are; and that (ii) the scale and extent of destruction is so immense that they believe that whatever efforts they might put forth would have a negligible impact.

Both arguments are easily refuted. As for the first, we should all seek to inhabit a world in which conscience wields greater influence than practical considerations. Even as hu-

man civilization has endured great tragedy throughout its progression, it has been spared far worse horrors because of people’s altruism and benevolence. A world in which people did not wish to be inconvenienced by others’ suffering would be, to quote “Leviathan,” Thomas Hobbes’ famous tract, “nasty” and “brutish.” Indifference to others’ plight, especially if we are capable of alleviating it in some measure, cannot be pardoned.

The second argument appears more plausible, but, thankfully, dissembles under scrutiny. It is true that no one individual can discernibly change the situation in Louisiana or Mississippi, but the potential of a group of individuals to effect visible progress is nearly unlimited. History abounds with illustrations of this principle — the success of the suffrage and civil rights movements are two classic examples.

The important point here is that if we believe ourselves capable of producing change, then change is possible. Do not get the impres-

The important point here is that if we believe ourselves capable of producing change, then change is possible.

sion, however, that I harbor idealist or utopian visions. I have long dispensed with those and recognize the affected areas’ return to normalcy will be a daunting effort, one that could take years and quite possibly decades. However, I am what you might call an “optimistic realist” — hardly, in my judgment, an oxymoron.

Consider, for example, the Hurricane Katrina Relief Initiative (HKRI), recently established by a small group of MIT students. At HKRI’s first meeting, only five people participated. At HKRI’s second meeting, over 40 people participated. The energy and enthusiasm in the room were infectious and translated into a concrete plan of action. Indeed, within a little over one hour, we generated myriad ideas, created subcommittees to address different priorities of hurricane relief, and, most critically, devised a list of tasks that needed to be completed in the near and intermediate future.

We endeavor to host a benefit dinner in the forthcoming weeks, in line with a similar

event held by the South Asian Association of Students to raise funds for tsunami victims. HKRI will also coordinate ongoing efforts, including fundraising events, food drives, and clothing drives. We will work with the Public Service Center to allow teams of MIT students to visit the impacted areas, to tutor children, rebuild infrastructure, improve sanitation of water and sewage systems, and otherwise work to restore the livelihoods of those affected by this tragedy.

Whether you contribute one dollar at a fundraising drive or serve on one of HKRI’s subcommittees, you will contribute to the progress of a vital initiative. What is most important is not the amount of relief that we contribute, but rather, a fundamental recognition that, even at great physical and emotional remove from the site of this disaster, we retain a moral obligation to its victims. Martin Luther King, Jr. eloquently affirmed this notion: “An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.” The HKRI is an earnest attempt to uphold this principle, one that we hope, and expect, will galvanize the MIT community.

Appreciation of What We Have

Hector H. Hernandez

It has been two weeks since the terrible devastation of New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina. The reality of the loss of that beautiful city still keeps me awake at night. For those who have never been in a category five hurricane, there is nothing in the world that can compare to the total helplessness you feel. But as much as the devastation of the natural forces caught our attention, the aftermath of the storm has transfixed our society

and has shaken us to the core. The images of those ignored, forgotten, and left behind by society are forever etched in my mind. The living pick at the pieces of their lives, while the body of someone’s mother, or is it a sister, or a daughter, gently floats by. A woman died on the sidewalk, and over the course of three days, a small memorial was built around her by those left behind. I feel the vacuum and emptiness of a community that is gone forever.

We look at the pictures of the human tragedy and debasement of the citizens of New Orleans in horror and shock. Why are we so surprised? Are we not animals with the most basic instincts? For those who believe in the goodness of human nature, a quick review of the horror stories coming from the devastation should wake them up from their stupor. Soci-

ety is just a short step away from the primal instincts of our long-lost ancestors. All I can think of is that this could have been avoided. The feeling of rancor and anger in the pit of my stomach will not go away.

Hurricanes come and go. The season starts in June and lasts through November. We have the most up-to-date weather prediction systems. The possibility of devastation in low-lying coastal cities was predicted by many. Evacuation plans were designed. But only for those who could afford to gas up and get out

of town. Those who could not were left behind to fend for themselves. Once again, the sharp contrast between those who have and those who do not was exposed. We were let down by our leaders. Years of warnings from scientists, engineers, and social reformers were ignored while the

structural and communal infrastructure of our country crumbled around us.

For two years now we have looked at the situation in Iraq and other parts of the world and wondered how people can commit the atrocities we see on the evening news. In the last week, we have had the veil lifted from our faces, and we have been made to face the reality of our own society. What right do we have to condemn others when we cannot properly address our own grievances?

The deterioration of the community in New Orleans happened because there was a

sense of disconnect and abandonment by the poor. Society had disenfranchised the poor and elderly from the basic necessities of life. But do not think that this is a problem of New Orleans or of the South. If you go into some poor neighborhoods in Cambridge and Boston, you are reminded that the greater Boston area faces the same issues New Orleans faced. There is a history of violence brought on by despair and poverty that continues to be ignored and glossed over by our community leaders.

In the coming weeks and months, there will be a wave of finger pointing, blaming, and passing the buck. Committees will be formed, and reports will be written. In an election year, you can be assured of endless sound bites and grandstanding. But just as before, once elections are over and time passes, the reports will be filed, the sound bites archived, and the promises made forgotten once more. Until the next time we face catastrophe.

We need to stop and appraise our personal stake in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. For too long we have sat at home with our cable television and our MP3s pretending that life is an episode of “The Apprentice” or of another “Extreme Makeover.” Meanwhile, outside our cozy nests, war rages on in our inner cities, poverty is on the rise in America, the gap in education and medical attention between those who have and those who have not increases, and the elderly and the young continue to be neglected and abused. How far will it go? When will we turn off our televisions, take off our ear sets, and join the real world?

Here is a novel idea. Let’s try to do it differently this time. Take what has happened — the countless reports, the varied opinions, the sound bites — and make our own minds up about what really happened. Do not take the word of the news anchor on the six o’clock news, on National Public Radio, or on CNN. If we are to stop this from happening again, we are going to have to accept responsibility for our community. We cannot continue to be passengers on the bus of life.

I challenge you to just do it. Go cold turkey. There is no need to run off to the Peace Corps (although they would gladly accept any help they can get). I am talking about involvement in your immediate neighborhood. Step out of your front door, and go to your neighborhood community center. Go visit your local after-school program coordinator. Go to your local library. Find out what you can do right now, on a day-to-day or week-to-week basis, to help out.

Disaster and catastrophe will strike again. We have created a situation of natural and social disequilibrium. Nature and reality have a way of reminding us of our frailty. We can minimize the impact of our actions by accepting the risks of our choices and implementing programs that will proactively move us toward equilibrium with humanity and the environment. Do your part. Make sure that you hold your leaders and yourselves to the commitment to prevent another New Orleans.

Hector Hernandez is a graduate student, former Graduate Student Council vice president, and a graduate representative to the Faculty Policy Committee.

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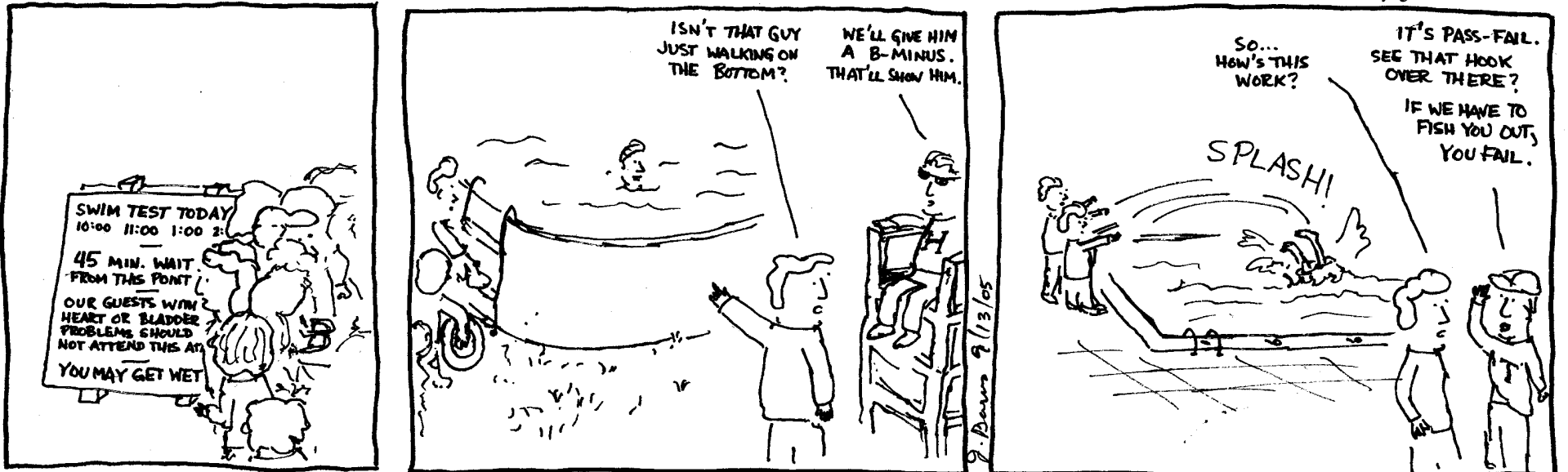
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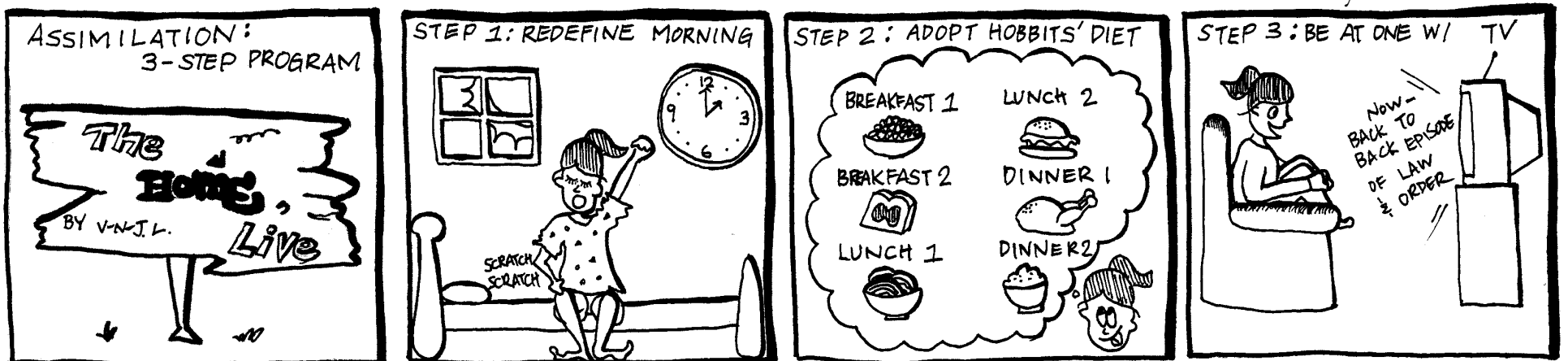


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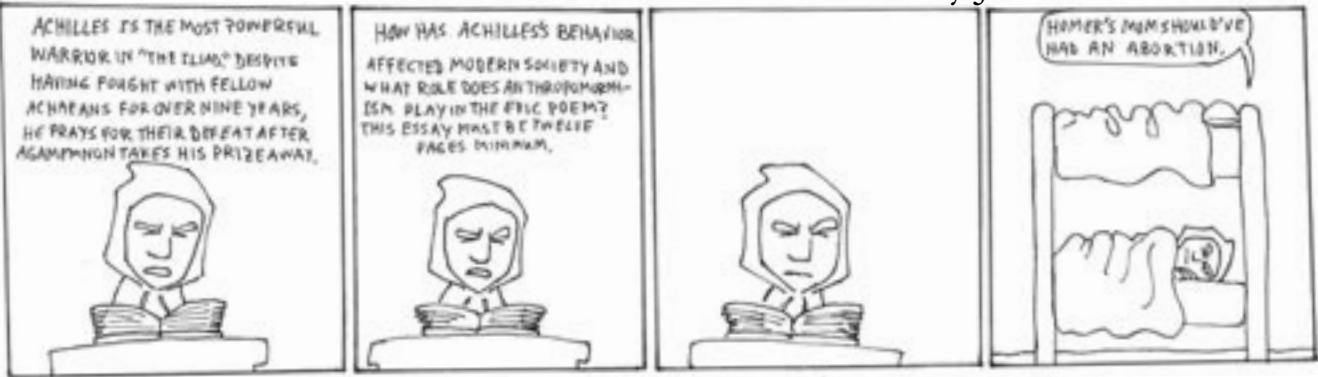
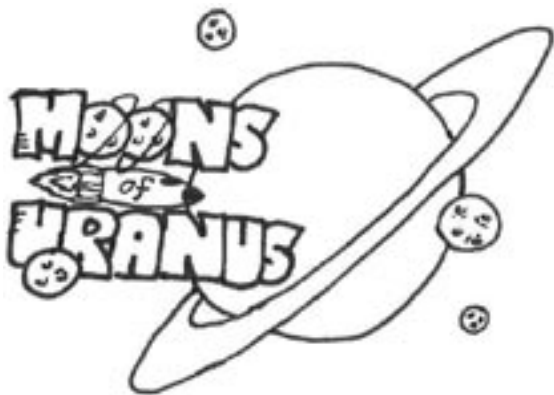
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Options

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Inbox (46931772) Page 1 of 2346589 1 to 20 of

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Date	From	Subject
<input type="checkbox"/>	03:19:22PM	Anne Hunter	Hedge Fund Risk Analyst
<input type="checkbox"/>	03:20:51PM	Anne Hunter	Programming UROP, CSAIL
<input type="checkbox"/>	03:25:01PM	Anne Hunter	Full-Time Test Subject
<input type="checkbox"/>	03:28:44PM	Anne Hunter	Smell Chemicals, \$12.00/hr
<input type="checkbox"/>	03:31:31PM	Anne Hunter	G.001 Professor Needed
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Students Attend Katrina Rally

Katrina, from Page 1

individually, and offered a campus tour, she said.

“I’m fortunate I’m here,” said University of New Orleans student Alton A. Torregano ’07. “I think MIT handled the situation pretty well. The entire process was expedited.” Torregano, who is living at the Tau Delta Chi fraternity, said he thinks he will attend MIT for the spring semester as well. MIT will provide up to two semesters for visiting students if their home schools are not open for the spring semester.

Tulane student Dorothy A. Hernandez ’07, who began classes Thursday, said that she chose to attend a Boston area school because classes in her home state of Virginia began two weeks ago. Hernandez is living in Allston, about an hour’s commute from MIT, with three other Tulane students, who are attending Boston University, she said.

Rally draws small crowd

A rally to support the aid efforts, held at noon yesterday at the Student Center, drew about 50 people, including a reporter from the Channel 4 News.

The event featured four speakers, including two representatives from Massachusetts General Hospital’s crisis response team, city council member Kenneth E. Reeves, who is running for re-election, and Claudia M. Gold ’07, an organizer whose family is from New Orleans. Two other scheduled speakers did not show up for the rally, Gold said.

Victoria Brady of the MGH public affairs office spoke briefly about the hospital’s aid efforts, including the dispatching of doctors to the area. Kristian Olson, an MGH doctor, encouraged the audience to help.

Reeves spoke about the preferential treatment of Katrina victims with higher socio-economic status. “We have seen in the most graphic demonstration that America has not been able to find it in its heart to treat all its people equally,” he said in his speech.

“I think that it’s really important for everyone, especially students, to get involved in political actions,” Gold said. “We have to think of ourselves as a community.”


“I came to the rally as a show of support for the people who have suffered so much,” said Nicholas A. Pearce ’07. “Donating money and clothing has its limits on the political side. Rallies and mass showings like this can do so much more.”

Other events planned for Katrina relief include a fundraising dinner on Saturday at 6 p.m. in La Sala de Puerto Rico in the Student Center, and a benefit concert tentatively scheduled for Sept. 24 at 9 p.m. in Lobdell. Gold encouraged students to donate to the blood drive running this week in the Student Center.

The Fall Festival this year will also be oriented toward Katrina relief, and will likely feature New Orleans musicians, said Louis D. Fouche ’07.

Solution to Crossword
from page 7

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Housing Prices Vary Across Dormitories

Costs Dependent on Building, Amenities

Housing, from Page 1

Similarly, a graduate student living in a single in Ashdown House would have paid \$522 a month (or about \$2350 a semester) in '03-'04; 5 percent more, or \$548 a month (\$2466 per semester) in '04-'05; and an additional 6.5 percent to total \$584 a month (\$2628 per semester) this year, according to Housing Office numbers.

Cost appears to be a less immediate concern for undergraduates, some of whom may not pay their bills directly. Former MacGregor House resident Valerie J. Willard '07 said, "I guess it goes up a little bit every year, but I'm not sure."

Eric M. Jonas G commented that, "while undergrads spend a ton of their time caring about housing in the 'where do I live' sense, the economics of the situation don't often come into play," since most undergraduates don't consider off-campus options other than fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups.

New dormitories such as Simmons Hall and Sidney-Pacific have significantly higher rents than older dormitories such as Bexley Hall or Ashdown. These rents reflect the types of rooms available, as well as the amenities provided in the building.

Ronak J. Bhatt G, a member of the Sidney-Pacific board of trustees said in an e-mail that he is concerned over the "gentrification" of the system, as "it decreases the heterogeneity of our living communities."

He said he was particularly concerned with the rapidity of price rises. "In Sidney-Pacific, for example, where some rents have risen over 25 percent since [academic year '02-'03], numerous residents and experienced government officers have been leaving the community, citing the rising costs as their primary reason."

Graduate Student Council president Emilie Slaby G said that "the cost of housing is a perennial concern for the graduate student community."

Graduate housing records show that two-thirds of the graduate student population lives off-campus.

FSILG rent lower than dorms

Director of Housing Karen A. Nilsson said she estimates on-campus rents are between 80 and 90 percent of market rates in similar neighborhoods in Cambridge, amounting to between \$400 and \$600 monthly

for undergraduate housing and between \$500 and \$1100 for graduate housing. While dorms generally have a small number of vacancies at any given time, the waiting list for the system exceeds the number of vacancies. FSILGs offer lower rents than available in the dormitories, although these savings may be offset by greater chore commitments and meal plan costs, she said. Of the slightly more than 4000 undergraduates at MIT, about 3000 are currently living in dormitories.

Some undergraduates do leave the dormitory and FSILG nest; Willard left MacGregor house for a Brookline apartment near the Boston University campus over the summer. "My single was tiny; the kitchen and bathroom was shared between eight people; we didn't get much considering how much it cost ... now I pay about \$300 a month more, but the place is more than twice as nice."

Rents differ based on costs, quality

Cummings said Housing's operating budget is about \$34 million this fiscal year. The distribution of rents across the 2942 undergraduate and 2221 graduate dorm beds is based on the perceived relative values of the different available rooms, depending on factors such as the type of room, the quality of the building, and proximity to campus.

For the graduate system, these values were assessed by a 2002 GSC study.

"There are subtle differences between the way we set [graduate] and [undergraduate] rents," Cummings said, "since graduate students are independent adults supporting themselves on stipends."

Nilsson said that undergraduate rents are determined by a committee, involving the Budget Office, Financial Aid, and the deans. If the final prices approved by the committee are lower than those proposed by Housing as sufficient to meet costs for the year, non-crucial maintenance and renovations projects are delayed.

As a comparison, Harvard is charging its undergraduates a flat rate of \$5148 this academic year (or about \$570 per month) regardless of house assignment or room type. This represents an increase of 3.5 percent over the previous year's rate of \$4974, which was itself a 5.7 percent increase over the '03-'04 rate of \$4706, according to Harvard's Web site.



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cost IS&T significantly more than basic service, the decision to charge students directly arose out of a combination of factors:

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¶This fiscal year, IS&T raised the Institute-wide monthly analog phone rate by \$3.50.

¶Federal auditors noticed that IS&T charged Housing a cheaper rate (\$1.50 less) than the rest of the Institute, in violation of federal accounting rules.

¶Federal auditors required IS&T to begin charging Housing for dormitory networking, at a cost of about \$1.1 million per year.

With energy costs expected to rise rapidly again this year, Housing will have even less capital available for unanticipated expenditures.

About half of the 185 undergraduate students who signed up did so in the past week. Most of the graduate students signed up close to, or after, the Aug. 22 switch-over. Students interested in the full service plan may still sign up, but will have to pay a \$25 activation fee.

In addition to basic phones not being able to directly receive incoming calls, it is not possible to transfer outside calls to a basic telephone. Basic service phones also cannot use the "tie lines" that directly connect MIT's telephone system with other institutions⁷, such as Harvard, Lincoln Laboratory, and Massachusetts General Hospital.

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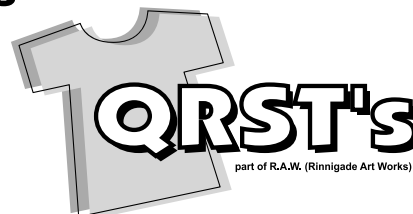
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New Rooftop Policy Will Allow COD to Change Fines

Opinions Among Students, Administrators Differ As to Whether Fines Serve As Deterrent or Increase Dangers

Fines, from Page 1

lice Safety Handbook (http://web.mit.edu/cp/www/safety_handbook_05.pdf) refers readers to <http://web.mit.edu/discipline>, which does not currently list the policy. Randolph said he was surprised the new policy had not been posted yet. “Sometimes the right hand doesn’t know what the left hand’s doing.”

Fines intended as deterrent

The new policy was driven by a nationwide concern about stronger campus security in the post-September 11 world, as well as concerns about liability, Randolph said. “What became fairly clear was that students felt that fines were fairly low,” he said. “There was a need for changes.”

Randolph also said that accidents, such as that of a then-freshman student who fell through a roof in 1999, led MIT’s legal counsel to worry about a perception that MIT was not serious about its policies. “Safety is our fundamental concern,” he said.

Over the last three years, there has been “a great deal more emphasis on campus security,” Clay said. If certain areas of campus were found to have been improperly accessed, “we’d all be in big trouble,” and the federal government might step in, he said. “The last thing we want is to have to report” someone.

There’s a “set of deterrents we could put into place in rising levels of seriousness,” Randolph said. “You start with the least onerous.”

“It’s an assumption that you’d think twice if it’s going to cost you money,” he said.

Some students, however, disagreed that the fine increase would minimize rooftop violations, suggesting instead that the new policy might create additional safety concerns.

“I’m going to be more inclined to run away because \$500 is not something I can afford,” said one student who leads rooftop tours for new students and spoke on condition on anonymity. “Tours are still going to happen. It’s just going to cause the people who are giving them to be more likely to run away if caught,” she said. “It’s not safe to run on the roof. Having a \$500 fine is more a problem with safety than creating a deterrent for hackers.”

“If the fine is at a reasonable amount ... it’s not so crushing,” said Undergraduate Association Vice President Jessica H. Lowell, who has also served as a UA senator for East Campus. “If it could be so high that they’re really afraid, ... then they’re going to run.” Lowell said that a fine of \$100 might be a reasonable balance between the need for security and the preservation of hacking culture.

She has talked to students and alumni about the new policy and will continue to work on the issue, she said.

Running from the police would be contrary to the hackers’ implicit code of conduct, Randolph said. “The hacker code has been that if you get caught, you get caught, and you don’t do anything foolish.”

New policy allows more flexibility

Under the present system, a \$50 fine is automatically imposed by the Office of Student Discipline, with no possibility for appeal. Under the new policy, following the assessment of a fine of up to \$500 by the Office of Student Discipline, the chair of the COD would be consulted about disciplinary responses, and a student might be able to request an appeal, perhaps including a hearing by the COD, Randolph said.

For enrolled students, first-time fines will be up to \$500, second of-

fenses will lead to fines of up to \$1,000, and third offenses to fines of up to \$1,500 with the possibility of additional disciplinary action, according to a copy of the policy provided by Randolph.

Students’ fines will be billed directly to their accounts. The punishments for non-students are more stringent, and include becoming persona non grata automatically on a second offense, and treatment as a trespasser for a third offense. Additionally, an earlier draft of the policy stipulated that MIT Police collect identification from those apprehended to be retrieved later at the police headquarters; this was later removed at the request of the MIT Police, Randolph said.

The new policy will allow for different punishments, a flexibility impossible before, Randolph said, by allowing the chair of COD and students on the COD to decide punishments.

“Clever incidents are not being prohibited,” Clay said. Rather, he said, the intent is to punish those engaging in actions that pose safety concerns.

New roles for MIT Police, COD

Under the new policy, some discretion would pass to the MIT Police and the Committee on Discipline.

“I’ve been assured that the Campus Police know the difference between hacking and not,” Clay said. “I trust that the Campus Police will act responsibly.”

The MIT Police were involved throughout discussions about the

change in policy, Clay said. MIT Chief of Police John DiFava was not available for comment.

Between now and January, anyone caught on a rooftop by the MIT Police will be warned about the pending fine increase, Randolph said.

“I do not think students should be punished for hacks that enhance the Institute, as long as they’re not endangering themselves or others,” said Resnick, who chairs the COD and would be notified and consulted about all violations as part of the new policy. “The only question is if there are risks,” she said.

Should the COD be involved in a disciplinary hearing regarding a rooftop violation, safety would be a primary concern in the discussions, said David A. Nedzel ’07, one of five students serving on the COD. He said that if the policy requests a fine, then a fine must be levied, but “there’s certainly a lot of room for leniency, especially in the case of new students getting oriented to MIT who may not necessarily be familiar with the rules.”

However, he said, if COD becomes involved in changing the policy, he would strongly oppose the fines. “I don’t believe that a punitive fine is appropriate for a rooftop violation,” Nedzel said. “I don’t believe they do much to affect behavior.”

Stephen M. Hou, a graduate student serving on the COD who attended MIT as an undergraduate, said he believes that rules should be followed to the letter. “If a student knows that the fine is so high and goes on the roof anyway, then they deserve to be slapped with that fine,” he said. “If someone was coerced

into going on the roof, that might be a case” where the fine should be reduced, however.

He said that from a perspective of safety, “if someone did do a hack that endangered students, which is not part of the hacking policy, then I think that there would not only be a fine, but further disciplinary action.”

Policy was long-discussed

Changes to the fine policy were suggested as many as 10 years ago, Randolph said.

About three years ago, he said, a meeting between members of the hacking community and then-President Charles M. Vest “established early on that students understood the need for safety.” The “hacking community understood the need for tightening up their controls,” he said.

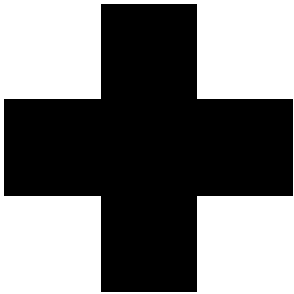
The UA president at the time, Josiah D. Seale G, was the last student to be involved in discussions about the policy change, Randolph said.

Seale said that he met with Randolph once or twice, and at that time publicized the possible future changes to the hacking community, but this seems to have “vanished from a lot of people’s memory,” in the years since.

The new policy allows MIT to set a uniform fine policy, he said; under the old policy, fines were higher for violations on the Green Building, which “looks like they’re encouraging hacking,” he said.

Seale said now, as then, he supports for alternative policies. “Make it so you have to work, and you have to care about getting up there.”

MIT needs to “try to find a way to walk the middle ground to allow the culture of hacking to continue and at the same time have maximum safety,” Randolph said. “On the one hand, we’re not a police state. On the other, we can’t have an entirely laissez-faire system.”



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SPORTS

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The water polo team competed in the 2005 MIT Water Polo Tournament last weekend in the Zesiger Center. MIT defeated FIU (10–7), Harvard (6–5), Yale (17–5), University of Toronto (11–2), and Connecticut College (11–3), losing only to the New York Athletic Club (13–4).

(above) Kevin C. Amendt '07 tosses the ball to a teammate while John Voith of Harvard attempts to block.

(right) Philip E. Cassel '07 prepares to fire a shot against Florida International University.



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Thursday, Sept. 15

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Women's Volleyball vs. Emerson

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Jack Barry Field, 6 p.m.
Rockwell Cage, 7 p.m.



STANLEY HU—THE TECH

Midfielder Andrew M. Bishara '09 heads the ball dead-on during the men's soccer 3–1 loss to Rhode Island College on Saturday, Sept. 10, at Steinbrenner Stadium. The loss brought the team's record to 0–2 for the season.